

WILL BE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT TAFT



Fred W. Carpenter, for the last nine years private secretary to Wm. H. Taft, will succeed Wm. R. Loeb in the responsible post of secretary to the president.

ARMY DESERTIONS DECREASE

One Per Cent. Less Than in 1907 and Principally White Soldiers.

Washington.—The campaign in the war department against desertions from the army is meeting with success according to Adjt. Gen. F. C. Ainsworth, U. S. A., who stated in his annual report to the secretary of war that the relative number of desertions was less in 1908 than in any other fiscal year since 1901.

The desertions during the fiscal year 1908 were 4,505, or 4.6 per cent of the whole number of enlisted men in service in the army during that year. In 1907 the percentage was 5.8 per cent, and in 1906 it reached the record of 7.4 per cent.

Boise Barracks, Idaho, enjoys the notoriety of having the most desertions of any post, the number there reaching 46.5 per cent, while Fort William Henry Harrison, Mont., Fort Brady, Mich., Fort Duchesne, Utah, and Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, proved unattractive in the order enumerated.

Gen. Ainsworth points out the significant fact that of the white troops 4.75 per cent were reported as deserted, while only 0.57 per cent of the colored men in the service deserted.

It is pointed out in the report that, while there was an increase in the authorized strength of the army, there was a much larger increase in the actual strength, which was only 9,315 enlisted men short of the authorized strength on October 15, 1908, as against a deficiency of 29,555 enlisted men on October 15, 1907.

As a result of the riding tests ordered by the president, 19 officers were placed on the retired list.

A NATURAL BEAR TRAP.

Accident Set It, a Cub Sprang It, and Cub's Mother Was Killed.

Roulette, Pa.—Solomon Le Roy was in the McKean county woods along the head of Potato creek. Hearing a noise in a little hollow off to one side of the path, he stole up and peered through the laurels to see what was making the noise.

Three bears were pawing in the leaves after beechnuts, one large bear and two smaller ones, cubs of last spring. Le Roy had no gun, so he contented himself with watching the bears.

Some one had been chopping cord wood where the bears were beechnutting, and one tree had fallen against another one and lodged, held in a leaning position by a small limb. While Le Roy was watching the bears one of the cubs clambered on the leaning tree. Its weight broke the limb that suspended the tree, and the tree fell.

The big bear was pawing directly under it, and the heavy trunk fell across its back, crushing it to the ground. The cub that had tumbled with the tree gathered itself up and dashed away through the laurels, rapidly followed by the other cub. The old bear gave a howl and a whine of pain, and when Le Roy hurried down to the spot he found a dead bear. The weight of the tree had broken the bear's back.

Obtaining help, Le Roy chopped the bear out of the natural trap that had killed it, and got it home. It was nearly a 300-pounder, being in prime condition, both in flesh and fur. The two cubs have not been seen since.

TWO HEARTS STILLED AS ONE.

Brothers' Lives Baset with Same Ills at Identical Times.

Mason City, Ia.—Science and philosophy both stand abashed when it comes to an explanation of the strange phenomena which existed in the lives of John Amundson, who died a few days ago while filling the position of clerk of the district court of Emmet county, and his brother, Dr. O. C. Amundson of Oklahoma, who died the same day.

Relatives are now telling of the intimate physical relations of the two men. They were constantly together as children. Doctor Amundson was the elder. When children and romping about in their plays, if one was hurt the other would sense the pain just as acutely as the one receiving the injury. This clinging to them through life. Let one get sick, no matter the distance separating them, the other was sure to be afflicted with the same trouble. John was stricken a few days ago at his home in Estherville, Ia. In a few hours the wires brought the message from Oklahoma that the brother was dangerously ill.

Giant Is Found in Coffin.

London.—Several stone coffins containing skeletons have been unearthed at Ramsey Abbey, Hants, the seat of Lord De Ramsey, one skeleton being seven feet long.

Some workmen digging a well at Peterborough discovered a decayed deal box, buried at a depth of two feet, containing the skeleton of a man, a woman and a child. The remains had evidently been buried many years. The well was being dug for some houses in course of erection at Peterborough, on property which formerly was part of the Fleetor Towers estate. Careful inquiry has failed to elucidate the mystery, and the police consider further action useless.

MOVING A CEMETERY

TENEMENTS WILL HIDE OLD GRAVES IN GOTHAM.

Property Is Sold and Forefathers of Many of New York's Prominent Men Will Have Their Bones Reinterred.

New York.—Crowds of curious tenement dwellers pressed about the canvas screens the other day, behind which laborers were excavating the bodies in the old St. Patrick's Cathedral cemetery, situated in the block bounded by East Eleventh and Twelfth streets, First avenue and avenue A. The ground has been sold by the trustees of St. Patrick's cathedral and the bodies will be removed to a large plot provided for the purpose in Calvary cemetery.

Few interments have been made there since August, 1848, and for many years the place has been surrounded by tenement structures. Now other buildings will be erected on the vacant plot and the historic burial-ground will exist only in the memory of a few of the oldest citizens.

For 20 years or more the removal of the cemetery has been stubbornly opposed by many descendants of those whose bodies were buried there. An opposition organization was formed two years ago to fight the project, but all legal obstacles were finally disposed of and the sale of the property followed.

The old cemetery was opened in 1831, the first body being interred on March 12 of that year. The ground was purchased for \$7,050 and between 1833 and 1848 the official records show that 41,916 bodies were buried. It was opened to relieve old St. Patrick's cemetery in Mott street, which was opened on May 25, 1813, and closed on the opening of the new cemetery. The records show that 32,153 bodies were interred in the old cemetery, making a total of 73,169 in both cemeteries, between 1813 and 1848.

Ancestors of many of New York's prominent citizens of to-day were buried in the old cemetery, but in many instances headstones have fallen down or have been removed, and difficulty will be experienced in locating many of the graves. Somewhere in the consecrated ground the workmen will find the crumbling bones of Lorenzo da Ponte, a celebrated Italian dramatist, whose works have been known to the musical and literary world for more than a century. Wherever Mozart's operas are sung da Ponte's name will ever be bright, for it was he who wrote the librettos for "Don Giovanni," "Figaro," and several others of the great composer's masterpieces. Da Ponte died in Spring street, this city, on August 17, 1838, and was buried in an unmarked grave. Its location is now unknown and the dust of the famous Italian will be buried with the unclaimed bones that are found elsewhere.

Da Ponte was born in Venice March 10, 1749, and came to America in 1805. In 1828 he was professor of Italian in Columbia, and was well known among the literary classes of two continents for his many plays, sonnets and translations. He published several books relating to his own country and was an authority in the teaching of the Italian language. Many of the pioneers in New York's great business enterprises were buried there, and notable among these was Joseph Bonfanti, who conducted the first department store in New York or in America. He died on September 26, 1838.

PEAR TREE STILL LADEN.

Fruit Will Be Picked and Stored to Ripen Next Spring.

Dover, Del.—A curious sight for this time of the year is of a pear tree in a yard on the farm of Sheriff-elect William E. Maloney of Kent county, Delaware, at Lebanon, four miles distant from here. The tree is still laden with fruit, causing the limbs to fairly break with their weight. It is also devoid of a leaf, and has been for several weeks.

Mr. Maloney will soon pick them and get them in some dry and not too cold place for storage until next March or February, when they will begin to ripen.

As to just what variety the pear is, Mr. Maloney is at loss to know, it resembling in many respects the Japanese pear. While the actual number of years still on the tree is unknown, a safe estimate from a basket picked and counted would warrant the statement that the tree has now at least 1,000 pears upon it.

Lobster to Quit "Gay Life."

Boston.—The lobster—the eatable kind—is threatened with extermination. This startling news, at a time when the supply of chorna girls is ever on the increase and the cold bottle is keeping pace with the growth of the musical comedy industry, was developed at a scientific conference here recently. The nation was warned that the twentieth century may see the end of one of the chief ingredients of the gay life, unless immediate steps be taken to avert the calamity. It was at the closing session of the New England conference, called by the governors of six states to obtain suggestions toward conserving the resources of this section, that the grave peril was bared. Francis H. Herrick of Cleveland, special investigator for the United States bureau of fisheries, told of the warning of the lobster.

STAMP POUNDER 51 YEARS.

George H. Chamberlin, Wisconsin, Holds Postmaster Record.

Eau Claire, Wis.—The post office at Rock Falls, a little village a few miles west of Eau Claire, was discontinued by the government after an existence of over 51 years under one postmaster, George H. Chamberlin, who has served in that capacity ever since the post office was established in 1857. Mr. Chamberlin was, in all probability, the oldest living postmaster at point of service in the United States.

Mr. Chamberlin, who is now 82, but hale and hearty as a man of 50, was appointed postmaster at Rock Falls in 1857 by President James Buchanan, and though various parties have alternated in ruling the destinies of this nation, Mr. Chamberlin has served continuously since his appointment up to the present time. Although appointed by a Democratic president, Mr. Chamberlin is a Republican and says he has always been one. He says that he has voted for every Republican nominee for president since 1856.

The history of Rock Falls is essentially a history of Mr. Chamberlin, so closely have his fortunes been interwoven with those of the little village. Mr. Chamberlin was born in New Hampshire and spent his early days in Vermont and Massachusetts. He came to Wisconsin in the early days of 1851 and cleared a farm near Briggsville. In 1852 he married Miss Annetta Weston. In 1856 Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlin, with a number of other settlers, came to this section, and in June of that year they settled down at Rock Falls. Mr. Chamberlin, who was something of a surveyor, laid out the town, and later the present village. In 1857 he was appointed postmaster.

RED TAPE MAY COST \$160,000.

Young Man Stands to Lose a Fortune Through the Government.

Muskogee, Okla.—Red tape and dilatory procedure by the government may cost William J. Seep and his associates \$160,000. Seep is a young man who heeded the advice of his mentor, T. N. Barnsdall, to "go west and grow up with the country." He came to the Creek nation and bought a couple of oil leases at a government sale at the Indian agency at Muskogee. He wired Barnsdall that he had got the leases.

"Get some rigs and go to spudding," was the laconic answer he got. He did. He "spudded" away until he had 22 wells down on the oil leases, most of them producing. Then it was discovered that, for some reason, the department of the interior had failed to approve the leases that had been bought by Seep. Jeff T. Parkes is the guardian of Robert Spade and Susan Turner, two minors on whose land the leases had been taken. When he found that Seep had drilled the wells before the department of the interior had approved of the leases, he brought suit for possession of the leases and \$160,000 worth of oil that has been taken from the wells, on the ground that young Seep had no right to drill or take oil until his leases had been approved.

In the meantime the department finally approved the leases, but the suit for the \$160,000 worth of oil is now in the federal court, and Parkes also asks that the leases be canceled.

APPLE CROP IS LARGE.

Enough to Make 6,250,000,000 Pies, It Is Estimated.

Detroit, Mich.—If the apple harvest in the commercial orchards of the United States this year were converted into pies the army of bakers needed to do the work would turn out 6,250,000,000 of them, and these placed side by side would make a path of almost 975,000 miles.

The total weight of this mountain of pastry is estimated at 9,210,000 pounds, including 6,125,000,000 pounds of flour, lard and other ingredients used in the popular American after-dinner dessert, and would require 154,166 cars of standard capacity to transport them from the ovens to the consumers.

Twenty-five million barrels, or 62,500,000 bushels, is the estimated yield this season, according to reports received by Harry J. Neely, secretary of the national apple show at Spokane, from 15,000 growers, operating the various belts in the union.

The returns show that while droughts, excessive rains, or pests wrought havoc in many districts in the middle-western, eastern, and several southern states, the entire crop is fully as large as in 1907, and it is better distributed. Prices also are higher than last year. However, the domestic supply is smaller than at any time since 1895, for the reason that the demand of the export trade is heavier and increasing yearly.

Prayer Made Him See.

Pottsville, Pa.—Tobias Schindele, aged 90 years, Pottsville's oldest resident, who, after many years of total blindness, had his eyesight restored to him, died here of general debility. It was last Thanksgiving day, after being blind for 15 years, that his sight came back to him, suddenly while seated at the table with his family.

He was a devout Christian, and his friends asserted that his sight was restored as a miracle, in answer to prayer.

ALL READY FOR HUNT

OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING AFRICAN TRIP.

Roosevelt Will Spend Year in Country—Expedition to Be Led by British Guide—Those Who Will Go Along.

Washington.—President Roosevelt, in a statement prepared by Secretary Walcott of the Smithsonian Institution, has made his first official announcement regarding the hunting trip to Africa on which he will start in two weeks after he retires from the presidency.

The expedition is to be outfitted by the Smithsonian Institution, the president defraying his own expenses, and will gather natural history materials for the new national museum. Mombasa will be reached in April next year, but no detailed itinerary beyond that place has been made except the general route to Lake Victoria Nyanza, and thence down the Nile to Khartoum, where it is expected the party will arrive about April, 1910. The official statement follows:

In March, 1909, Theodore Roosevelt will head a scientific expedition to Africa, outfitted by the Smithsonian Institution and starting from New York city. This expedition will gather natural history materials for the government collections, to be deposited by the Smithsonian Institution in the new United States national museum at Washington.

Besides the president and his son, Kermit Roosevelt, the personnel of the party on leaving New York, will consist of three representatives of the Smithsonian Institution: Maj. Edgar A. Mearns, medical corps, U. S. A.; retired Maj. Edmund Heller and Mr. J. Alden Loring. On arriving in Africa, the party will be enlarged by the addition of J. Cunningham, who is now in Africa preparing the president's outfit. He will have charge of a number of native porters who, with necessary animals, will be formed into a small caravan.

Mr. Roosevelt and his son will kill the big game, the skins and skeletons of which will be prepared and shipped to the United States by other members of the party. Kermit Roosevelt is to be the official photographer of the expedition. The national collections are very deficient in natural history materials from the "dark continent," and an effort will be made by the expedition to gather general collections in zoology and botany to supply some of its deficiencies, but the main effort will be to collect the large and vanishing African animals.

R. J. Cunningham, who is now engaged in assembling the materials for Mr. Roosevelt's use, has been employed to act as guide and manager of the caravan. Mr. Cunningham also is an experienced collector of natural history specimens, having made collections for the British museum in Norway and Africa. He is an English fieldman who has guided numerous hunting parties in Africa, and who was chief hunter for the Field Columbian expedition.

Edmund Heller, a graduate of Stanford University, class of 1901, is a thoroughly trained naturalist, whose special work will be the preparation and preservation of specimens of large animals. Mr. Heller is about 30 years old. His experience, when associated with Mr. Elliot and Mr. Ackley of the Field Columbian museum, in collecting big game animals in the same portions of Africa in which Mr. Roosevelt will visit, will be a valuable asset to the expedition.

J. Alden Loring is a field naturalist, whose training comprises service in the biological survey of the department of agriculture, and in the Bronx Zoological park, New York city, as well as on numerous collecting trips through British America, Mexico and the United States. He is about 38 years old, of ardent temperament and intensely energetic.

Maj. Edgar A. Mearns, a retired officer of the medical corps of the army, about 53 years old, will be the physician of the trip and have charge of the Smithsonian portion of the party. He has had 25 years' experience as an army doctor, and is also well known as a naturalist and collector of natural history specimens.

No fears need be entertained for the president's safety from the attacks of man or beast, as every member of the party is an excellent rifle shot.

The party will reach Mombasa in April, 1909. No detailed itinerary has been decided upon, but the general route will be up the Uganda railway to Nairobi and Lake Victoria Nyanza, a distance of about 650 miles by rail, thence crossing into Uganda, and finally passing down the Nile to Cairo. Much of the hunting will be done in British East Africa, where the Uganda railroad can be used as a base of supplies and means of ready transportation. At one great mountain, possibly Mount Kenya, will be visited.

Khartoum will be reached, if all goes well, about April, 1910. The expedition may be expected to spend about one year on African soil.

Money to Be Well Spent.—New York city's growth and its closer attention to matters of public health will increase the expenses of the department of health for next year \$426,647 in salaries. This year the salary list is \$1,843,079.

MADE GOOD "STILLS"

VAULTS IN BROOKLYN USED TO CHEAT UNCLE SAM.

Wrecking of Old Buildings Reveals Secrets of the Days of the Early 70's in the City's Fifth Ward.

Brooklyn.—In excavating for the foundations of the new factory building for the Thompson Meter Company, at Bridge, York and Talman streets, several most curious walled-up vaults have just been uncovered under the sidewalks of Bridge and York street—cave-like places that instantly brought to the minds of a number of the old residents of what used to be the Fifth ward of Brooklyn the days of "moonshine" whisky, shortly after the civil war.

Those were great days in the old Fifth ward, when nearly everybody had a kettle of "mash" heating, and these old vaults, with evidences of secrecy, now that they have seen daylight let into them, have the romantic appearance of being hiding places for unlawfully-made liquor.

The Hennebique Construction company is to erect on the plot a big five-story structure of re-enforced concrete. In order to get the proper room ten old shacks—one and two story frame buildings—and the ground they stood on, were bought and torn down, under the direction of Israel Pomerans, a well-known excavator.

There isn't a resident of the neighborhood, and there are some whose memory of the ward goes back 60 years, still living there who can remember the shacks as other than old when they first remember them. When they were built no cellars were put under the buildings, but, according to one old resident, the vaults under the sidewalk, with a passage-way from an arway, were built originally to keep provisions in. In post-bellum days they probably made fine hiding places for "moonshine."

A photograph taken the days the vaults were uncovered shows that these caves were of no flimsy construction. Built of both broken bowlders and brick and laid in cement of the best quality, the excavators had pretty difficult work to break through the walls.

There were six vaults on Bridge street and two on York, but the two houses torn down on Talman street had no vaults under the sidewalk. In front of the houses with vaults there were small sunken areas, to which two steps generally led. Years ago there were openings from these areas into the vaults, but of late years the presence of the hollow places were not suspected, it is said, by the occupants of the houses.

In one of the vaults photographed there was an old-time cask, covered with dust and with one head broken in, of the style of coopers of years ago, and curious spectators that peered into the recess were at once reminded of the days that led up to the calling out of the militia in the early 70's, when "moonshine" making reached its most notorious days.

Calls Photographs Public Scolds. Egin, Ill.—Ruling public photographs into the class of common nuisances the city council has established a precedent by ordering Chief of Police James W. Younger to notify the management of the five-cent amusement house to abolish at once its crowd-attracting noise-producer. This action was taken by the council after having received a petition from a score of business men praying that the photograph be abolished. The petition pleaded that the continuous grind of the playhouse barker not only distracted nerves, but also proved a financial detriment to business in that vicinity.

"DOG AND CAT DEMENTIA"

Fool Fads of Some Silly Society Women Are Thus Designated.

Chicago.—Fashionable women, the wives of wealthy men who love poodle dogs and high-bred cats better than babies as members of the household, are mentally unbalanced—they have "dog and cat dementia," according to Herbert A. Williams, a New York sociologist connected with the Jacob Bliss settlement who spoke recently at the Woodlawn Woman's Literary club on "The Frivolities of Society."

"Observe the crowds of fashionable women that attend the fancy dog and cat shows given at frequent intervals in any large city—Chicago for instance," he said. "Why, some of these thoughtless, hair-brained women almost fall in love with these four-legged pets. Baby shows are not one-third as popular as the canine and feline exhibitions."

"Why a homely poodle or a germ-carrying cat should be of greater worth or attraction than a bouncing baby of health and beauty I can't see. "Some time ago a rich New York society woman advocated the founding of a home for homeless cats and dogs. Think, will you, of the supreme ridiculousness of establishing an orphanage for animals when there is so urgent a need for more homes for deserted children."

Mrs. Edward R. Burnham, president of the club, said that pets were generally a nuisance in the household and that a bright and handsome baby was always to be preferred.

IN INTERESTS OF SCIENCE.

Denial That President's African Trip Is "Slaughtering Expedition."

New York.—That President Roosevelt's African hunting trip will not be a "slaughtering expedition" is reported by Maj. A. E. Mearns, U. S. A., surgeon stationed at Fort Totten, who was recently in Washington to confer with Mr. Roosevelt as one of the party to accompany him.

Maj. Mearns is connected with the Smithsonian Institution, and will gather material for the museum during the expedition. Explaining that the trip was not for "slaughtering," Maj. Mearns said it was to be in the interests of science and to provide specimens for use in this country.

It is understood that Maj. Mearns will be the president's chief adviser on natural history subjects. Mr. Roosevelt will do little more shooting than is required to obtain two or three specimens of every kind of wild beast which it is allowable to shoot in the region to be visited. These specimens will be placed in the national museum at Washington.

Maj. Mearns is a graduate of Columbia university, and has been in the medical service of the army since 1882. He is a charter member of the American Ornithologists' union and a member of the Linnaeus society, the National Geographical society and the Biological society.

Plans to Breed Snappers.

Hamburg, Pa.—Charles Aschenbach is experimenting in raising snappers, with apparent success.

Six weeks ago, in plowing out his potatoes he found 24 young turtles, each the size of a silver half-dollar, took them home and placed them in a box containing wet sand. He feeds them milk and meat scraps. Since their captivity one has died.

They are mindful of the weather, disappearing under the sand during the fair weather and coming out during rainy weather. His neighbors are anxiously watching for the result.

Sends Chickens to Africa.

Greensburg, Ind.—Fred Styers of this city has shipped three Columbia Wyandotte chickens to R. W. Hazell, Cape Town, Africa. The price received for the three fowls was \$150.